Top 10 safety tips for summer operations

Always use a spotter when working near low-hanging overhead electrical lines. Identify what is in the ground where excavation takes place. Caution should be used when digging around existing utilities. Hand dig around other utilities. Disconnect all electrical power if possible before starting any excavation. For trenches greater than four foot in depth, always use an approved trench box or maintain a 1:3 or greater slope on trench sides. Excavation equipment is loud; so always use hearing protection. Because hearing is greatly diminished, always work in plain view of the excavation equipment operator. Develop and use clear hand signals and maintain eye contact.

Fire: Outdoor forest fires in early spring or late summer need to be on the minds of the resort staff. Lightning strikes, camp fires and our own operations can ignite a fire. Make sure solvents and cleaning products are stored away from heat sources. Clear brush and tall grass away from exterior heat sources. Your resort should have a fire prevention and response plan. It should include training requirements, tools, and portable water.

First-aid: Summer is an excellent time to get staff updated on first aid and CPR training. There are many courses available from American Red Cross Emergency Responders (ARCER) to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). ARCER is the least time consuming and least expensive certification and is readily available through most emergency response service providers. During the summer, much work on a mountain is done in remote locations. Never work alone. Always have more than one person at a worksite with a working knowledge of emergency responder first-aid.

Heat/hydration: This summer is expected to be hotter and dryer than normal. Be sure to provide plenty of water and adequate work breaks out of the heat. Factor in heat stress and heat exhaustion detection in your first aid training. Also train employees on the OSHA training module on heat exhaustion.

Incident reporting: Incidents still happen in the summer, off season. Summer incidents involving guests are less frequent but still occur. Be sure to immediately document and report every incident involving a guest. Also report any work related incidents involving employees. Staffing is reduced during the summer, it is important to revisit these procedures with the summer crew.

Lift maintenance: Since most lift work is done from a workchair, safety is paramount. Lockout and tagout the lift when workers are on the line. Workers need to be harnessed into the chair to prevent a fall. Radio communication between the workchair and ground crew needs to be in place. Make certain radios are in good working order. Prior to moving the workchair the operator needs to ask, “Are all lines and lanyards clear?” The workchair supervisor must check, then reply, “All lines and lanyards are clear, ready to move forward.”

Serve weather: It is not a matter of “if” but “when” severe weather will strike your resort this summer. Have an action plan in place for workers in remote areas of the resort. Communication is key. You will need to know where guests are at all times, and have a plan for getting them out of harm’s way if the weather becomes dangerous. Tracking of weather and storms can be done by tapping into local weather resources, forest service, or other services. Remember, you are not alone. Work with your loss control representatives to help make this a safe and successful summer.

For more information, contact Helen Richards, 800-528-7730 | helen.richards@wellsfargo.com.

This publication is intended to be a general discussion of the matters contained herein and the information should not be used in making a decision concerning the subject matter without consulting with your attorney, accountant or insurance professional. Wells Fargo Special Risks, Inc. assumes no responsibility whatsoever in accordance with its use.

Prepared by the Sports & Recreation Division of Wells Fargo Special Risks, Inc.

Products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Special Risks, Inc., a non-bank insurance agency affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company. Coverage is provided by unaffiliated insurance companies.

© 2013 Wells Fargo Special Risks, Inc. All rights reserved.